



# Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

*City of Toledo, OH*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

## BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Toledo for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. The City of Toledo is the recipient of a Brownfields Assessment Pilot focusing on the inventory and assessment of brownfields in the City and a Targeted Brownfields Site Assessment grant focusing on assessment and redevelopment planning for the Stickney West Industrial Park. The Job Training Pilot will focus on neighborhoods affected by brownfields, primarily to the north of the downtown. The targeted neighborhoods closely correlate to the City of Toledo's state Enterprise Zone. These neighborhoods are characterized by higher rates of unemployment, poverty, and minority residents. Poverty rates in these neighborhoods are as high as 60 percent and unemployment is as high as 31 percent (based on the 1990 census).

The economy of the City of Toledo is depressed because of the decline of traditional heavy industries in the area. More than 100 brownfields have been identified that continue to have a negative impact on economic revitalization. Toledo's brownfields redevelopment activities are accelerating, with public and private sector investments in brownfields of approximately \$1.38 billion over the past five years.

## PILOT SNAPSHOT



Toledo, Ohio

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2000

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot will train 100 participants as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from unemployed and underemployed African-American, Hispanic, and single mother residents of the eight Toledo neighborhoods with the heaviest concentration of brownfields. The City's redevelopment efforts over the last five years have generated approximately \$1.38 billion of public and private investments in brownfields redevelopment.

### Contacts:

City of Toledo  
(419) 936-3757

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
(312) 886-4747

Visit the EPA Region 5 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

These redevelopment activities are projected to require hundreds of new employees over the next several years to successfully complete projects that are planned or underway. Very few environmental training programs are offered on a regular basis by training institutions in the Toledo area. Local environmental employers have indicated a need for skilled workers to address brownfields in the City.

- Conducting brownfields technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for one year after the job training is completed.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*

## **TRAINING OBJECTIVES**

The City of Toledo plans to train 100 participants, achieve an 80 percent placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for one year after the training is completed. Participants will be recruited from unemployed and underemployed African-American, Hispanic, and single mother residents of the eight Toledo neighborhoods with the heaviest concentration of brownfields. The Pilot training program will last three months and include environmental awareness, hazardous waste site operations, leadership and supervisory training, hazardous waste management, equipment operation, pollution prevention management, sampling technology, and lead and asbestos abatement, including training in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies.

The City of Toledo's training efforts will be supported by organizations such as the Lucas County Metropolitan Housing Authority, Northwest Ohio Building Trades Association, Owens Community College, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, Association of General Contractors, Northwest Ohio Building Trades Association, and several environmental employers. Environmental professionals will volunteer their time to deliver seminars on careers in the environmental field as well as innovative and alternative assessment and cleanup technologies.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit unemployed and underemployed African-American, Hispanic, and single mother residents of the eight Toledo neighborhoods with the heaviest concentration of brownfields;